

REMARKS

This Amendment responds to the Final Office Action mailed March 31, 2009 in the above-identified application. A Request for Continued Examination (RCE) accompanies this Amendment. Accordingly, entry of the Amendment and allowance of the application are respectfully requested.

Claims 1-15 are pending in the application. By this Amendment, claim 1 has been amended. The amendment finds clear support in the original application, at least at p. 11, line 16 to p. 13, line 19. No new matter has been added.

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-7, 9-12 and 15 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as anticipated by Willmore (US 2003/0179156). Claim 8 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over Willmore in view of Zerhusen et al. (US 2003/0052787). Claims 13 and 14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over Willmore in view of Suga et al. (US 4,800,376). The rejections are respectfully traversed for the following reasons.

Willmore discloses an interactive multi-user display arrangement for displaying goods and services. The arrangement is described as a “video wall” that includes a two-dimensional array of monitors and terminals for displaying information and for allowing user interaction to occur in a commercial environment. Willmore further discloses an arrangement of individual personal computers for use as information input and output devices. The personal computers are shown as interactive screens and input devices (i.e., keyboards and touch screens) that are arranged as a row below a matrix of a display region (FIGs. 1 and 5, and ¶0043).

Applicants respectfully disagree with the Examiner’s contentions regarding the teachings of Willmore. Nonetheless, in order to advance prosecution of the application, claim 1 has been amended to clarify the claimed invention. In particular, claim 1 has been amended to require that the configuration data comprises an identification of a medical unit connectable to the electric bus from which data values are to be received, a criteria for evaluating the received data values and a format for displaying a result of the evaluation of the received data values. As explained by way of example in the present application, the electric bus may carry data values from a plurality of

medical units. The display/control unit is programmed by the configuration device to select data values from an identified one of the medical units and to evaluate the received data values.

Amended claim 1 is directed to a display and control device for medical equipment including units connectable to an electric bus, the display and control device comprising at least one display/control unit and a base unit. The base unit includes an electric bus for communication of units connected thereto, a plurality of connector devices at which the display/control unit can be connected to the electric bus, and a configuration device which is connected with the electric bus and which, after connection of the display/control unit to the electric bus, transmits configuration data determining display contents and input areas of the display/control unit via the electric bus. The configuration data further comprises an identification of a medical unit connectable to the electric bus from which data values are to be received, a criteria for evaluating the received data values and a format for displaying a result of the evaluation of the received data values.

Applicant submits that Willmore contains no disclosure or suggestion of a display and control device having a configuration device as defined by amended claim 1. In particular, Willmore contains no disclosure or suggestion whatever of a configuration device that transmits configuration data comprising *an identification of a medical unit connectable to an electric bus from which data values are to be received, a criteria for evaluating the received data values and a format for displaying a result of the evaluation of the received data values*, as required by amended claim 1. Instead, Willmore describes a multiplexer which distributes video and voice information to the respective display screens (¶0048). For at least these reasons, amended claim 1 is clearly and patentably distinguished over Willmore, and withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Claims 2-15 depend from claim 1 and are patentable over the cited references for at least the same reasons as claim 1.

Based upon the above discussion, allowance of the application is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

A Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested. The Examiner is requested to call the undersigned at the telephone number listed below if this communication does not place the case in condition for allowance.

If this response is not considered timely filed and if a request for an extension of time is otherwise absent, Applicants hereby request any necessary extension of time. If there is a fee occasioned by this response, including an extension fee, that is not covered by an enclosed check, please charge any deficiency to Deposit Account No. 23/2825.

Dated: July 28, 2009

Respectfully submitted,

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